GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2689
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
REPORT OF WHO ON WATER BORNE DISEASES
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Shukla Smt. Karuna;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a large number of people die every year in the country due to waterborne diseases as revealed by the Report of World Health Organisation (WHO) recently; and

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) World Health Organisation (WHO) Report'2008 titled 'Safer Water, Better Health' indicates that in the year 2002,around 7.82 lakh deaths in India were caused due to water, sanitation and hygiene (WSH) practices.Out of these,4.02 lakh deaths are attributable to diarrhoeal diseases which also include other disease like cholera, typhoid and dysentery.These diseases are caused mainly by consumption of contaminated drinking water and lack of adequate sanitation facilities.Besides,the problem of malnutrition among children associated with repeated diarrhoea or intestinal infection has been mentioned in the Report as another major cause, which accounts for around 2.17 lakh deaths in India due to WSH practices.

Supply of safe drinking water is State subject.However,the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme(ARWSP),Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme,Total Sanitation Campaign,School Sanitation & Hygiene education and Low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of drinking water supply and sanitation facilities.The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is also focused on basic health care delivery systems through a synergistic approach focusing on sanitation,water,nutrition and health care.